



### DRIVING FLOOD FACTS

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:

1. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling.
2. A foot of water will float many vehicles.
3. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles and pick-ups.

### GENERAL PREPARENESS TIPS

Before flooding occurs you should:

- Know the risks and danger signs.
- Purchase insurance, including flood insurance which is not part of a homeowners' policy.
- Develop a plan for what to do.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Volunteer to help others prepare.

During a flood event:

- Put your plan into action.
- Help others reach safety.
- Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge during the event.

After a flood event:

- Repair damaged property.
- Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.

Every citizen in the country is part of a national emergency management system that is all about protection and protecting people and their property from all types of hazards. Homeowners have a responsibility to be prepared for any disaster which may occur.

Courtesy of the Town of Elsmere.

**STAY PREPARED!**

Visit our website at [elsmere.delaware.gov](http://elsmere.delaware.gov)



**FEMA**

These preparedness tips were taken from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security website: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).



# Flood Preparedness and Prevention Guide

The need to prepare is real. Disaster disrupts hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects on both people and property.

If a disaster occurs in your community, local governments and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be prepared as well. Local responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may focus their efforts elsewhere.



Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families and individuals should know what to do in the event of a fire and where to seek shelter during a tornado or how to respond to flood warnings.

People can also reduce the impact of disasters by flood proofing, elevating a home or moving a home out of harm's way and securing items that could shake loose in an earthquake and sometimes avoid the danger completely.

The first step to being prepared in a flood event is to understand what the warnings mean. You should familiarize yourself with the following terms regarding a flood hazard:

**Flood Watch:** Flooding is possible. Tune into your local weather radio, commercial radio or television for more information.

**Flash Flood Watch:** Flash Flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; Tune into your local weather radio, commercial radio or television for more information.

**Flood Warning:** Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

**Flash Flood Warning:** A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

## BEFORE A FLOOD

To prepare for a flood, you should:

1. Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
2. Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
3. Install "Check Valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
4. Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
5. Seal the walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

## DURING A FLOOD

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

1. Listen to the radio or television for information.
2. Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is a possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
3. Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.



## PREPARE FOR EVACUATION

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

1. Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
2. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home remember these tips:

1. Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
2. Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.